

### REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 16, 2004, claims 33-37 and 40-52 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 67 and 80 were allowed. Claims 14-30, 65, 68, 69 and 81 were rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of one or more of the cited patents.

With respect to the claims indicated as being allowable if rewritten, claim 33 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of independent claim 14 from which it directly depended. Amended claim 33 should now be in allowable form. Dependent claims 34-37 and 40-52 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable amended independent claim 33, and, as such, should also be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 18, 20 and 23-30 further have been amended to depend from allowable claim 33 and, accordingly, should be allowable as well.

With respect to the rejected claims, claims 14-17, 19, 21, 22, 65, 68, 69 and 81 are cancelled without prejudice to prosecuting such claims in a continuing application.

It is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claim are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 17, 2004

By: Gary W. McFarron  
Gary W. McFarron  
Registration No. 27,357  
Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,  
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.  
200 West Adams St., Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Phone: (312) 236-8500

Attorneys for Applicants